be able to offer reasonable prices to the customers, (c) No, Sir.

Assurance to Parliament for Electroral Reforms

1413. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the dates on which the Government assured Parliament during the last 3 Plan periods and each of the last three years that proposals for electoral reforms were under consideration and that Government would very, soon consult political parties in this regard; and

(b) whether the contemplated meetings with political parties have since taken place, if so, when and with what results'? THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H, R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No separate record has been maintained regarding such assurances given during the last 3 plan periods. Government have all along been of the view that final decision in regard to electoral matters should be taken after consultation with the political parties. This was first conveyed in the President's address to the two Houses of Parliament on the 17th January, 1985. Thereafter, Government's view was re-itefated in reply to over forty Questions, in the two Houses of Parliament during the years' 1984, 1985 and 1986, besides in replies to discussions in the two Houses on the subject of electoral reforms. (b) Soon after the present Government took over, it consulted the political parties in January, 1985, with regard to 1hc Anti-Defection measures and the consensus that emerged during such consultation led to' the enactment of the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act. Discussions with the political parties on the package of proposals for electoral reforms made by the Election Commission in 1986 are yet to be held.

1414. *[Transferred to the 5th May, 1987]*

Khadi and Village Industries COWBUMO-

1415. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose; to widen the scope of activities of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(h) if so, what is the revised definition of village Industry;

(c) what was theriac in the.level of production by Village industries during tne last three years and

(d) what incentives have been provided ,o the village industries by Central Gov ernment and the State, through the com mission or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ™?USTRlAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY .(SHRI M. ARUNA CHALAM): (a) Yes Si, .A B;ll to amend the Khadi and Village Indnrtnes Commission Act to fnis effect «s currently under consideration in Parliament,

(bl A Sth.telhest is attached. *z{See* below).

(c) The Village Industries production in terms of value has increased fro* *£ 72216 crores in 1983-84 to Rs 807.06 Cores in 1984-85 and to V. 929.03 cro-res in 1985-86.

(d) Funds in the form of S grants for the development of Khadi ana Village industries are allocated under he plans bv the Central Government Jo^e Khadj and Vuiage Industries Commis all0cates them ^proved pattern for the development of includes both loan and grant which vanes "onT industry to industry. KVIC a*J ancT i available for infrastructure fatflr Z capital expenditure on tools J* equipment, working capita .ntereat ub sidv on bank loans etc. Village> >ndustr the products are also marketed *™*£ Khadi Gramodyog Bhavans a»d ome